

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WE MUST CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. BOB SCHAFFER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to speak on the topic of excessive taxation.

Tuesday of this week the first attempt of the 105th Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment fell short by only one pathetic vote. The failure to pass this amendment was of great disappointment not only to me and my family but to most Members of Congress and to approximately 80 percent of the American people who have repeatedly and consistently asked Congress to protect the futures of their children by the passage of a balanced budget amendment.

Now yesterday's setback is temporary, I assure you of that. We must and we will continue to push for a balanced budget amendment for the American taxpayer. But for now it is essential that we remember just whose hard-earned dollars provide for the budget, the same budget that we hope will one day be balanced. It is the retired school teacher in Cincinnati OH, small businessmen in Atlanta, GA or, closer to my home, the farmer in Lamar, CO. They are the ones who sacrifice a greater and growing portion of their strenuous effort, hard work and time away from their families in order to pay more and more cash only to be squandered here in Washington, DC, year after year after year.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we focused on strategies to allow these honest, hard-working producers to keep more of what they earn for themselves and for their families. They deserve a break from excessive and punitive taxation such as the capital gains tax and the inheritance tax. Mr. Speaker, these taxes do nothing more than betray the very characteristics that Americans stand for: accomplishment, success, honesty, opportunity, and optimism, but most especially responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, these are the core American values upon which our budget and Tax Code should be built, not the waste, duplicity, despair and stupidity that our Government heaps upon taxpayers every day.

Now, since the President and his party seem to have the upper hand in their zeal to kill a balanced budget, let us agree at least that the dead hand of capital gains taxes and the tax on inheritance be lifted from the worn backs of American families. Let us free the productive instincts of a Nation,

unleash its creativity and competitiveness, restore the value of thrift, and preserve families and their businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am just a new Member of Congress, but the people of Colorado did not send me here to make friends with the alligators. They expect me to help drain the swamp, and providing relief from capital gains taxes and death taxes are two important ways to help Americans rise above the muck and mire of oppressive taxation. On this topic I intend to be most persistent and to speak here often.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROHRABACHER addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TAX-FREE INTERNET ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that I should rise now, the Representative from the home State of the alligator, to address a particular area of our economy that I would like to set aside as not eligible for taxation, and that is the Internet.

Specifically, I have filed a bill today entitled the Tax-Free Internet Act of 1997. This legislation amends the Internal Revenue Code to declare that fees for Internet access and other online services are not and shall not be subject to Federal taxation. Furthermore, the bill would prevent any Federal department from using its funds to study the revenue potential of Internet taxation. I believe that this legislation is a strong statement in support of the free and unfettered development of this industry. My bill has already been endorsed by several online services and Internet service providers.

America Online, one of the Nation's most widely used Internet-related service providers, said, and I quote, "We commend your leadership in authoring and sponsoring the Tax-Free Internet Act of 1997. AOL strongly supports your policy efforts. Any new tax could threaten the continued growth of this global medium."

The President of Erol's online service adds, "This legislation is a very positive development, and I give it my full support."

Mr. Speaker, we must not allow this budding industry to be smothered by Federal taxation. A few of the States, including my own State of Florida, have already initiated legislation to exempt the Internet and online service access fees from State and local taxes. We on the Federal level should do likewise.

As the United States Internet Providers Association says of my bill: "We support the efforts of all informed policymakers to protect technology inno-

vation and the growth of the industry through sound legislation. This is a step in the right direction."

Mr. Speaker, let us here resolve not to interfere with the technological phenomenon which has done so much to inform and educate so many millions of Americans. Let us restrain the reach of government so as not to smother the vitality and creativity that characterize this new frontier in communications.

PATENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that really is pure Americana. It is important enough that it is noted in the U.S. Constitution. I refer to the U.S. patent which is the backbone of the United States economy, the basis for our dominant place in the world economy, and clearly the key to a more prosperous economic future. Invention is certainly pure Americana.

As I have said, by offering the strongest patent protections in the world the United States has stimulated more creativity, more new industries and tens of millions of more new jobs than anywhere else in the world throughout all of our history. Yet the small independent inventors, the future Graham Bells, the Edisons, the Henry Fords, are now having to fight tooth and nail to maintain their constitutional right to their intellectual property. It is slowly, slowly being stolen out from them by the mega corporations and foreign interests. Truly, intellectual property in the United States is under dire threat. The system we have in place may not be perfect, but at least the small independent inventor has a fighting chance against the larger multinational corporations.

A perfect illustration, Mr. Speaker, of the importance of saving our patent system is the very true story of Dr. Raymond Damadian of Long Island and the inventor of the MRI. It has taken Dr. Damadian, who is a physician at the Down State Medical Center in Brooklyn, some 25 years to uphold the patent he received back in 1970, and that is with the protections of the U.S. Constitution. In June 1970, Dr. Damadian discovered the different types of tissues taken from rats emit different signals when placed in a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. Not only that, but cancerous tissues taken from the rats emit significantly different NMR signals. It immediately occurred to Dr. Damadian that if it were possible to create a large enough and powerful enough scanner to contain a human, it would be possible to detect cancer very early on.

Less than 2 years later, Dr. Damadian filed the pioneer patent application that really was the world's first MRI, a patent application that